

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00698 031356 Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01

( ADP ) W

----- 093466

R 031117 Z APR 73  
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 3736

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E. O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINT  
SUBJECT: BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

REF: BOMBAY 0515

1/0 SUMMARY: AS PREDUCTED SHIV SENA' S DYNAMIC 32- YEAR OLD  
SOFT- SPOKEN SUDHIR JOSHI WON BOMBAY' S MAYORALTY ELECTION  
ON FIRST BALLOT APRIL 2. ELECTION FURHTER SETBACK FOR RULING  
CONGRESS  
SIGNIFICANCE OF WHICH LIES  
IN TOTAL ISOLATION CONGRESS PARTY IN VOTE REFLECTING  
STRONG ANTI- CONGRESS STANCE ADOPTED BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES.

2. THE MAYORALTY ELECTION OF APRIL 2 REPRESENTS ANOTHER SERIOUS  
REVERSE FOR THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY IN BOMBAY IN THE SENSE THAT  
THE PARTY FOR THE FIRST TIME FOUND ITSELF TOTALLY ISLOATED IN  
140 MEMBER COUNCIL POLLING ONLY THE 45 VOTES OF ITS PARTY  
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL. IT FAILED TO ATTRACT VOTES FROM  
ANY OTHER PARTY, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST, THUS REFLECTING THE  
STRONG

ROSS- THE- BOARD ANTI- CONGRESS SENTIMENT ADOPTED BY  
THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THEIR NEWLY ELECTED COUCVIL REPRESENTA-  
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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00698 031356 Z

TIVES. EVEN THE FOUR COMMUNIST COUNCILLORS (3 CPI AND 1 CPM) ALBSTAINED. PRES BOMBAY PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE AND FORMER CPI MEMBER RAJNI PATEL FAILED TO INFLUENCE ANY OF THE CPI ON THIS SCORE.

3. THE MAHARASHTRIUE SHIV SENA OBTAINED THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE NON- CONGRESS PARTY COUNCILLORS EXCEPT THE JANA SANGH. THE LATZ

R FIELDDED ITS OWN CANDIDATE AND OBTAINED ONLY THE 15 VOTES OF ITS PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CGSNCIL. IN ADDITION TO THE 39 VOTES OF ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVESQHE SHIV SENA OBTAINED THE VOTES OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE(12) CIVIC FORUM (11-- INCLUDING 4 MUFQIMS WHO ALLIED WITH LEAGUE) SOCIALIST PARTY (8) OLD CONGRSKS (4) INDEPENDENT (1) AND PRI(1). MANY NON- MAHARASHTRIANS INCLUDING MUSLIM LEAGUE SUPPORTED STRONGLY MAHARASHTRIWC- OG ENTEDOT; SENA ( WHICH CONFI JD BOMBAY ) FOR FIRST TIME. IN THUS BROADENING ITS BASE AND WITH JOSHI AS MAYOR, SHIV SENA MAY BE ABLE PROJECT LESS PAROCHIAL AND MORE LIBERAL IMAGE IN FUTURE.

4. DECISION BY 16 MUSLIM LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES ( INCLUDING 4 MUSLIMS IN CIVIC FORUM) TO SUPPORT SHIV SENA AND TO OPPOSE CONGRESS CANDIDATE WAS KEY ELEMENT IN SHIV SENA VICTORY AND RELFECTS INCREASING ALIENATION MUSLIM COMMUNITY BOMBAY FROM CONGRESS AND GOI BY VIRTUE LATTER' S ATTEMPTS SECULARIZE IT. THIS REFLECTS GROWING MUSLIM IRRITATION WITH GOI' S ATTEMPTS CHANGE THE " COMMUNCAL" CHARACTER OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY AND INDIRECT SUPPORT GIVEN BY MANY CONGRESS LEADERS FOR CHANGES IN MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW. IN BOMBAY THIS IRRITATION HAS FOCUSSED MOST RECENTLY ON REQUIREMENT THAT NATIONAL SONG VANDE MATARAM ( WHICH MUSLIMS REGARD AS HINDU SONG) BE SUNG AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MEETINGS AND THATMEMBERS STAND WHILE IT IS SUNG.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE LIKELY EFFORT ON PART CONGRESS HIGH COMMAND DOWNPLAY RESULTS BOMBAY ELECTIONS AS PURELY LOCAL AFFAIR DOMINATED BY LOCAL ISSUES, WE CONSIDER HIGH COMMAND LIKELY VIEW ELECTORAL LOSSES AND ISLOATION IN MAYORALTY CONTEST WITH COME CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AND AS PRETTY GOOD SAMPLYING LATTER SUGGEST DISENCHANGMENT AND CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC DRIFT , WAY WIND BLOWING CURRENTLY. WHILE WE WOULD NOT EXPECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOMBAY 00698 031356 Z

EARLY CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP BOMBAY CONGRESS ORGANIZATION, WE  
INCLINED THINK THERE WILL BE MANY IN PARTY AND PARTICULARLY  
THOSE TO THE RIGHT OF CENTER WHO WILL ATTRIBUTE DEBACLE IN  
PART TO RAJNI PATEL AND WILL URGE HIS REMOVAL  
AT APPROPRIATE TIME.  
BANE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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